

Beacon Falls Board of Selectmen  
10 Maple Avenue  
Beacon Falls, CT 06403



**BEACON FALLS BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Monthly Meeting  
July 14, 2014  
MINUTES  
(Subject to Revision)**

**1. Call to Order/Pledge to the Flag**

First Selectman Chris Bielik called the meeting to order at 7:30 P.M.

Members Present: First Selectman Chris Bielik, Selectman Peter Betkoski, and Selectman Dominick Sorrentino

Others present: MaryAnn Holloway, Tax Collector; Sue Dowdell, Director of Library; Chief Jim Trzaski and Captain Howard Leeper from Fire Dept.; Luke Marshall from Citizens News

**2. Comments from the Public**

C. Bielik asked three times for any comments from the public. There were no comments made by the public at tonight's meeting.

**3. Read and Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings**

The three members reviewed the minutes from the Special Monthly Meeting from June 16, 2014 and the Special Meeting on June 25, 2014 for the STEAP Resolution. The total numbers of minutes are two and will be voted on as a group.

Motion to accept the minutes from the two meetings in June 2014 submitted for tonight's meeting: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

4. **Resident Trooper/Police Report**

C. Bielik noted that the report indicated that there were no issues with the Beacon Hose Carnival.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Resident Trooper/Police Report for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

5. **Wastewater Treatment Plant Report**

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Wastewater Treatment Plant for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

6. **Report of Public Works**

There was no Public Works report submitted for tonight's meeting.

7. **Report of the Fire Marshal**

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Marshall for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

8. **Report of the Finance Manager**

C. Bielik noted that the report has the Total Receipts to Date through the end of May 2014; June 2014 still needs to be added.

Motions to accept the report submitted by the Finance Manager for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their meeting tomorrow night: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

9. **Report of the Tax Collector**

MaryAnn Holloway is present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Tax Collector's Report. The report is through June 30, 2014.

Motions to accept the report submitted by the Tax Collector for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their meeting tomorrow night: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

## **10. Report of the Town Treasurer**

There was no Town Treasurer Report submitted for tonight's meeting.

## **11. Report of the Town Clerk**

Motions to accept the report submitted by the Town Clerk for tonight's meeting and submit it to the Board of Finance for their meeting tomorrow night:  
**Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

## **12. Any Other Reports**

### **a. Report of the Library**

Sue Dowdell is present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Library Report.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Library for tonight's meeting:  
**Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

### **b. Report of the Custodian**

Motion to accept the reports for May 2014 and June 2014 submitted by the Custodian for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

### **c. Report of the Fire Department**

Chief Jim Trzaski and Captain Howard Leeper are present at tonight's meeting if the Selectmen have any questions regarding the Fire Department Report.

Motion to accept the report submitted by the Fire Department for tonight's meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

### **d. Report of the Town Nurse**

Motion to accept the quarterly report submitted by the Town Nurse for tonight's meeting: **Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

### **13. Reading of Correspondence**

1. An email from Linda Tobin from the State of Connecticut, General Assembly. There is an act that requires the town to designate a Veteran Service contact person, Public Act #13-34 and Substitute House Bill #3588. The town of Beacon Falls is looking for a person to volunteer for this role. C. Bielik passed this along to Rich Minnick and Bruce Carlson, Commander of Post 25.
2. A letter from Steve Posik was received stating that the subject was P & Z Public Notices and "bad only gets badder". C. Bielik indicated that he will get in touch with the Joe Fitzpatrick, Chairman of Planning & Zoning.
3. A notification from Webster Bank was received in regards to the change in law taking banks out of the financial advisory service business. This was already addressed at last month's meeting with the appointment of Barry Bernabe.
4. A letter from Thomas James, Superintendent of Region 16. They are conducting a broad search for a replacement for his position and invited C. Bielik to be on that committee.
5. A letter from the Connecticut Community Foundation was received indicating that there were 5 scholarships awarded to Beacon Falls college students for the academic year 2014-2015. They are Rachael Mariano, Monica Vitzoski, Stephanie Amato, Ian Chamenko, and Elyssa Malota. C. Bielik congratulated the recipients.
6. A letter from Beacon Hose Co. 1 was received thanking for the support of this year's carnival.
7. A letter from Donna & Lou Mazzio of 22 South Circle was received thanking the town of Beacon Falls for hiring 2 full time ambulance personnel Gretchen and Kurt and for thanking them for their help recently.
8. A letter from the Director of the Library outlining a proposed cleaning and maintenance schedule for the library. C. Bielik indicated that he made a copy of the letter and gave it to the custodian.
9. A letter from the State of Connecticut, Connecticut State Library, regarding the state's historic preservation grant. It was notifying the town of the approval of its application for the Historical Document Preservation in the amount of \$5,000. This will help the Town Clerk catalogue some of the historic data.
10. A letter from Domenic Neri Jr., Waterbury resident, was received and was carbon copied to Mayor Chatfield of Prospect, the principal of Woodland High School, and the Superintendent of Region 16. The gentleman received a ticket for parking in an illegal place and was concerned that he was singled out because the ticket was hand-delivered to his house by police.

C. Bielik looked into this matter and found out that he was parked blocking an emergency exit. It is a state violation and requires the hand delivery of the summons. C. Bielik will notify Mr. Neri of this.

#### **14. Old Business**

##### **a. Audible Cross Walk – Main Street**

This is still on since it has not been resolved as of yet. The books from last fiscal year have not been consolidated yet and once we know what the bottom line is, and know if there are funds available to do this, then it will remain on the agenda.

##### **b. Senior Bus Grant**

Notification from the State of Connecticut, Dept of Transportation, was received regarding the application for a state grant we applied for funding for the purchase for the replacement of senior bus. There were 59 organizations in the Stet of Connecticut that applied for the funding grants. It is an 80/20 grant and the Town of Beacon Falls was awarded the grant. There are guidelines to follow in purchasing the vehicle and we can start the shopping. We will be receiving \$48,000 towards the \$60,000. C. Bielik would like to thank the Central Naugatuck Valley COG, as well as Bernie Doiron, Flo Blaron, and Karen Wilson.

##### **c. Nutmeg Network**

A letter from the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management was received notifying the town of the approval of a grant in the amount of \$52,100 for the Nutmeg Network connection. It is a high speed internet that will be going to become universally fiber optic. It started as an education network and is a DSL line. It is now available for municipalities. After research, it was found that we are able to save some money in connecting with Laurel Ledge instead of Woodland High School. This will allow us to purchase more equipment for the connection.

An additional item is needed to be added to the agenda until Old Business. C. Bielik asked that he would entertain a motion to add under Old Business, item d. Polling Location.

**Motion to add under Old Business, item d. Polling Location on tonight's agenda: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

#### **d. Polling Location**

Laurel Ledge has been historically used as the polling location. Neither the gym nor the cafeteria will be available to be used for the primary in August and for the elections in November due to the upcoming renovations. A suggestion was made about the use of the fire house and this would be C. Bielik's last choice since the fire house needs to be used for more things. This would leave Woodland High School or the Senior Center. The Senior Center is a little bit small but does have a separate entrance and exit point. The time is setting up and removal of the equipment is a concern. It would be a good choice for the use of Woodland if they are able to store the equipment. C. Bielik will contact Kurt Ogren regarding the storage at Woodland. The Board of Selectmen agreed that the two choices are for the Senior Center or for Woodland High School. This will have to be taken care by the end of this week.

C. Bielik asked for a two minute recess before the discussion of the Ordinance with Regard to Collection of Sewage System.

Motion to recess for two minutes: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

C. Bielik asked for a motion to reconvene the meeting.

Motion to reconvene the meeting: **Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.**

### **15. New Business**

#### **a. Discussion – Ordinance with Regard to Collection of Sewage System Fees**

C. Bielik noted that MaryAnn Holloway, Tax Collector, is present at the meeting but was hoping that the Building Inspector was going to be as well. C. Bielik read the ordinance that has been in effect since July 1951 and never changed. Having talked with the Building Inspector and the Zoning Inspector, the town of Beacon Falls is not doing the collection of sewage system as stated in the ordinance. Brian Herb's position, as well as C. Bielik's, is that if the ordinance states that it should be done one way and we are not doing it that way, then one of two things should happen. First is do as the published ordinance states that it should be done, or, second is to change the ordinance.

C. Bielik, M. Holloway, and B. Herb had a discussion regarding this within the past week or so and the bottom line was that it is a function that should be in the office of the Building Official. It hasn't been done by the Tax Collector ever as we know. P. Betkoski asked if this is for usage fees or when you put a new line through. C. Bielik noted that the town doesn't collect usage fees or has ever.

C. Bielik asked what is the opinion of the Selectmen, if the collection fees be collected by the tax collector or by the Building Official office. B. Herb's concern is that he is tasked with doing this but the ordinance says it's not his responsibility. M. Holloway indicated that an investigation should be done prior to making a decision on this. This will be under Old Business on the agenda for next month.

**b. Havilland Drive – Discussion**

Havilland Drive is off of Lancaster Drive in the industrial park and is a road to nowhere, having no business on the road but lots are there. It has become a dumping ground and is becoming an issue. The question that has arisen is that during the winter snowplowing season, should the town be spending time and effort plowing the road when no one is going there except to dump their stuff. Does the published road need to remain open or do we have the opportunity to close it off?

As far as can be found out under the CT Dept. of Transportation statute perspective, there is nothing prohibiting us from closing the road. Public Works do have jersey barriers that could be placed to block the road and extend over the curb. P. Betkoski asked Fire Chief Trzaski if he sees any problems with blocking the road and Fire Chief Trzaski noted that you can look at it in two ways. If the road is blocked, that the fire load may be decreased but what if there was activity that the fire department needed to get to.

The owners will be contacted as to what is happening with this road and then a decision will be made.

**16. Appointments**

There were no appointments made at tonight's meeting.

**17. Budget Transfer Requests**

There were no Budget Transfer Requests made at tonight's meeting.

## **18. Comments from the Public**

Sue Dowdell, 32 Wolfe Avenue, asked about the audible crosswalk. Her question was if the owners of the apartments were contacted to help fund the cost of the new audible crosswalk and C. Bielik indicated not as of yet, but it is still on the table.

Jim Trzaski, 106 Burton Road, asked about the new fluorescent lights in town. There are creating a lot of light pollution and if a shade could be put on as coverage. It does shine into his property and it pretty bright. C. Bielik thought that it was looked into and noted that there is no shield that is available. C. Bielik noted that it will be looked into it and see if it could be fixed.

J. Trzaski asked if there is a tree warden in town and C. Bielik indicated that we do. J. Trzaski asked if anything could be done because some damage was done to one of the fire apparatus. P. Betkoski echoed that same, that he has seen some low-hanging trees on Cook Lane. Howard Leeper, 5 North Circle, also mentioned a couple of streets that he has noticed with low-hanging trees. It was mentioned about Lopus Road being one of those roads.

C. Bielik asked three times if there were any other comments from the public and there were none.

C. Bielik indicated that he will entertain a motion to add Payment of Bills as #19 on the agenda, and this will change Executive Session to #20 and Adjournment to #21.

Motion to add Payment of Bills as #19 to tonight's agenda, and change Executive Session to #20 and Adjournment to #21: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.

## **19. Payment of Bills**

Motion to approve the Clerk's invoice from the June 16, 2014 Special Monthly Meeting in the amount of \$87.50 and the invoice from the June 29, 2014 Special Meeting – STEAP Resolution meeting in the amount of \$42.50 for a total of \$130.00: Sorrentino/Betkoski; no discussion; all ayes.



## **20. Executive Session**

There was a discussion under the Executive Session at tonight's meeting. C. Bielik asked everyone to leave the room at 8:52 P.M. in order to hold the Executive Session.

At 9:00 P.M., C. Bielik closed the Executive Session and allowed everyone back into the room. The only person remaining was Marla Scirpo, clerk for the Board of Selectmen.

## **21. Adjournment**

With no further business to discuss, C. Bielik asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's meeting.

Motion to adjourn tonight's Board of Selectmen meeting at 9:00 P.M.:  
**Betkoski/Sorrentino; no discussion; all ayes.**

Respectfully submitted,

Marla Scirpo  
Clerk, Board of Selectmen